

The Connecticut  
Department  
of Correction



Remember Our Troops

# P.R.I.D.E.

Our motto: Professionalism, Respect, Integrity, Dignity, Excellence

## AT WORK



### A for Accreditation

For the dedicated men and women of MacDougall-Walker CI, it doesn't get much better than this. After a stressful several months of intensive preparations, painting, cleaning and labeling anything that didn't move, a team of Commission on Accreditation for Corrections and American Correctional Association Auditors recently passed judgment on the facility's efforts. The final score after an incredibly stringent, three-day examination of every aspect of the facility was 100% on the mandatory requirements and 96.4% on the non-mandatory. "You deserve to be proud of what you have accomplished. I want to commend Warden Sieminski and all staff for this wonderful achievement. Once again we have proven that there is none better than the Connecticut Department of Correction."

Continued on Page 6, *Accreditation*



ACA Auditors look on as Warden John Sieminski addresses staff

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### Our Mission

The Department of Correction shall protect the public, protect staff, and provide safe, secure and humane supervision of offenders with opportunities that support successful community reintegration

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### Commissioner's Cup 2005

The weather was perfect, the foursomes were fearsome, and even a slice looked good at the beautiful Tradition Golf Club in Windsor. This was the location of the 2005 Commissioner's Cup Golf Tournament. The day was filled with an unforgettable blend of



(Above) Committee members take a moment to pose with Commissioner Theresa C. Lantz

sports enjoyment, staff camaraderie and fundraising success. In all, an estimated \$2,500 was raised for the John Armstrong Scholarship at the University of New Haven which is open to Department of Correction staff and their dependents. A raffle was held to benefit the Hurricane Katrina Relief effort. The proceeds of \$1,500 was raised to benefit this worthy cause.

Continued on Page 2, *Commissioner's Cup*

About and for  
correctional  
professionals

September 25 -  
October 8, 2005

# Commissioner's Cup, Cont'd

Commissioner Lantz expresses her sincere appreciation to the Golf Tournament Committee chaired by Rich Carthon which worked tirelessly to ensure the event's success and to the generous sponsors which supported the Tournament.

The "winners" were:

1st Place: Tom Hunt Jr, Tom Hunt Sr., Dave Reilly, and Glen Petelle -11

2nd Place: James Gatling, Willie Glisson, John Stenson, and Roger Gaston -11

3rd Place: Dan Hardcastle, Elliot Matos, David Hickman, and Robert LaPointe-10

Longest Drive: Men - Jimbo Powers Women - Robin Perry

Closest To Pin : Men - Tony Lopes & Glen Petelle

Women - Lisa Moody

Last Place: Tracy Butler, Valerie Light, Lori Ricks, and Cathy Shepherd



Commissioner Lantz with the 1st Place Team.

## Thank You From A Colleague

My family and I would like to thank everyone who donated to the S.A.N.D.Y. Campaign. Donations came in many forms, dollars, time, words of support and best of all a party.

We were overwhelmed with the outpour of kindness from all. I cannot begin to express how touched I am by this generosity. I never thought I would be the one in need. I am so proud to be a part of this agency. As the years go by you don't realize how many special people you meet. You all have a special place in my heart and memory.

In closing, the thoughtfulness and generosity of my DOC family is deeply appreciated.

Fondly,  
Sandra Morton and Family



**Pride.**  
*AT*  
**Work**

for  
September 25 -  
October 8, 2005

Distributed  
bi-weekly to 7,000  
staff and via the internet  
throughout  
Connecticut and the  
nation by the Depart-  
ment of Correction  
24 Wolcott Hill Road,  
Wethersfield, CT 06109

M. Jodi Rell, Governor

Theresa C. Lantz,  
Commissioner

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# Critical Incident Stress Response Program

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Critical Incident Stress Response Program shall provide support for the staff adversely affected by a traumatic event. Interventions are conducted in a safe, confidential atmosphere to promote staff well-being.

The Department of Correction has recognized that staff working in a correctional environment may become involved in highly stressful incidents during the course of their duties. Some of these incidents are so critical and traumatic that they have the capability of going beyond our normal coping skills.



A critical incident is a significant event that has the potential to cause psychological distress in an individual and may interfere with the person's ability to function either at the time of the event or later. Reactions vary from person to person. These signs of stress may be physical, emotional, cognitive and/or behavioral. Early crisis intervention has been found to mitigate stress-related symptoms. Trauma research has acknowledged that talking about the incident is helpful in the healing process.

Under the direction of the DOC's Administrative Directive 2.18 (Critical Incident Stress Response Program), specially trained departmental staff volunteer to work together as a team to assist their co-workers involved in a critical incident. We are not mental health professionals, but we are trained to be a true peer support team.

## Critical Incident

### Introduction:

The Critical Incident Stress Response Team strives to incorporate members from every area of Corrections. It is the belief of the team that the more well-rounded our team is, the more effective we become to meet the needs of DOC staff.

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## Calendar



**October 9 - Retirement Party** in honor of O'Neal Roach of Bridgeport CC is scheduled for Sunday, October 9th at the Country House Restaurant in East Haven. The \$40.00 donation includes a buffet style dinner and open bar. For information you may call Officers Smith, Meekins, Meyers or Johnson, Lt. Fann or Reveron or RN. Betty Cadore at 203.579.6131 or Officer Roach at 203.974.4111.



**October 14- Surprise retirement Party** for Captain Charles Knight will be held at The Crystal Room which is located at 98 School Street in Naugatuck from 7:00 p.m. until 12:00 a.m. The price is \$35.00 which includes a buffet dinner & gift. For Tickets Contact Unit Manager A. Hannah at 203. 250.2703 Lt. D. Baker, Lt. M. Barnes, Lt. R. Blanc, Lt. P. Freeman, C/O S. Jackson, C/O C. Little 1st Shift at 203. 250.2690

Continued on Page 7, *Calendar*



**Employee  
Assistance  
Program**

A Confidential Counseling Service

**888-EAP-8900**



# Valiant Actions

Trooper Walsh of the Connecticut State Police notified Warden Wayne Choinski of Northern CI of the valiant actions of Correction Officer Peter O'Berg, who was a first responder to a fatal accident which occurred on Interstate 91 on September 16, 2005. Officer O'Berg rendered assistance to the victim and stayed until emergency personnel arrived. Warden Choinski thanked Officer O'berg for "Your display of concern and compassion for the victim of this tragic accident. Your professionalism shines a positive light on all of us in this Agency."



Correction Officer Peter O'Berg of Northern CI

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## Agency good neighbors

**MacDougall-Walker CI** - On September 16th a "Pay to Park" fundraiser was held to raise money for the Hurricane Katrina relief. Staff collected \$1,994.32. They also collected \$300 in food donations as well.

**MacDougall-Walker CI** - Staff sold breakfast sandwiches on September 19, 20, and 21 to raise money for the American Heart Association. The MacDougall Building collected \$765 from the breakfast sandwiches and another \$445 in donations. The Walker Building raised \$118 from the breakfast sandwiches.

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## Did you know?

*Did you know is an informational column written by the Facilities Management and Engineering Unit, aimed at increasing your knowledge of issues in our everyday lives. This week's issue was submitted by Rich Pease who can be reached at 860.692.7562. If you have any questions or an idea for a future column please contact Director David Batten at 860.692.7554.*



Did you know there are simple steps to conserve gas, save money and reduce auto emissions?

**To get the most out of each gallon of gas and reduce tailpipe emissions, try the following steps:**

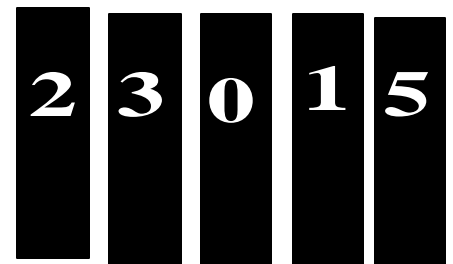
**Drive Wisely** - Fuel is wasted by sudden starts and stops, by driving at excessive speeds, by carrying extra weight in the trunk and by unnecessary idling. Waiting through a long drive-through line is not only frustrating, but wastes fuel and creates unnecessary pollution.

While on the highway, using cruise control at the speed limit (traffic conditions permitting) helps maintain a constant speed and can help you to save gas. At lower speeds, using overdrive gears will slow the engine speed, save gas and reduce engine wear.

Continued on Page 5, *Did you know?*

Continued on Page 7, *Good Neighbors*

**Supervised  
Population  
on  
October 5, 2005**



On October 5, , 2004 the population was 22,983..

# Visit From Above

From the West it came. First seen, then heard and then felt. Those who had gathered, closed or covered their eyes to the blinding light while the wind-whipped sand stung the skin. As it descended from the twilight into darkness, the star was visible by Warden Christine Whidden, CRCI staff and members of the Hazardville and Shaker Pines Fire Units.

It looked like a scene from "Close Encounters". The craft finally landed in the parking lot in front of the visiting area. Its occupants emerged and shook the Warden's hand. After Enfield and CRCI had the Warden been selected for a really remote assignment? Maybe next go-around.

On this night, CRCI served as host to LIFESTAR, the emergency medical helicopter based at Hartford Hospital, whose distant light has become synonymous with hope.

The drill was conducted to ensure coordination between state, local and medical agencies.



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## Did you know?, Cont'd

**Regular Maintenance** - Routine car maintenance not only can extend a car's life and increase its resale value, but it can help improve gas mileage. Properly inflated and aligned tires, a tuned engine and regularly changed oil and air filters are a few simple steps that help ensure maximum fuel efficiency.

**Advanced Trip-Planning** - Planning your routes, avoiding peak traffic periods, combining errands and eliminating backtracking will help you to save gas, prevent wear and tear and save time.

**Smart Refueling** - Did you know that topping off the tank creates harmful emissions and wastes money? Gasoline vapors not only smell bad, but they are harmful to breathe, contribute to ground-level ozone formation and are a source of toxic air pollutants such as benzene. Evaporation from the spillage of gas from overfilling can occur, contributing to the air pollution problem.

New cars have more choices than ever when it comes to fuel economy and protecting the environment. Consumers should consider fuel economy when purchasing a new vehicle. By taking a few simple steps to maximize fuel efficiency, we can all reduce the impact a long trip may have on both the environment and our travel budget.

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## MVP's

Allen, Jeff Lt	CRCI
Arcouette, John Lt	CRCI
Ballaro, Joseph CO	CRCC
Bell, Orlando CO	WCB
Brehler, Jeffrey CO	CRCC
Brown, Kenneth CO	WCB
Carlone, Joseph Capt	CCI
Carney, Glen CO	CCI
Carrasquillo, Pedro	WCB
Carrion, Andres CO	WCB
Cleaver, Michael Capt	MWCI
Cotta, Ronald CO	HCC
Daigle, Brian CO	CRCC
Dougherty, Daniel CO	CRCC
Drost, John CO	CCI
Fogarty, Carroll CO	CRCC
Forkey, Mary Lt	WCB
Fusaro, Timothy CO	CRCC
Gillette, Mickey Lt	CRCC
Golas, Steven CO	CRCC
Hubert, Randy CO	CRCC
Johnson, John CO	CRCI
Johnson, Lavonne Lt	CRCI
Jura, Lukaz CO	CCI
Lee, Margo Office Asst	WCB
Ligenza, Richard Lt	WCB
Lucey, LaShawn CO	WCB
Luna, Norberto Capt	MWCI
Mangual, Frank CO	CRCC
Martin, Chad CO	CRCC
McCoy, Paul CO	CRCC
McRae, Donald CO	CRCC
Milligan, Michelle CC	WCB
Murray, Russell CO	WCB
Ouellette, Allison Rec Spec	WCB
Owen, Jim CO	CRCC
Roy, Paul CO	CRCC
Seaberg, Kim CO	CRCC
Schain, Breina Sec I	MYI
Scott, David CO	CCI
Waldron, Richard Lt	CRCC
Washington, Arenzo CO	WCB
White, Enrica CHNS	WCB
Williams, Velma CO	WCB
Yother, David CO	CRCC

# CISRT, Cont'd

## Training:

All members of CISRT must go through intensive training in defusings and debriefing. These trainings are ongoing to keep the team up to date with Critical Incident information. The importance of the success of Critical Incident is the teamwork.

## When Utilized:

Activation of the teams requires initiation from a Warden/designee, based on the particular incident. Some incidents are at the discretion of the Warden/designee, others are mandatory. (Please refer to A.D. 2.18 for specific details.) Once activated, the CISRT coordinator will assemble a team to the affected facility.

## What We Do:

This team will meet with the primary staff impacted by the incident, then the secondary for a debriefing. All meetings are held as a group discussion so that everyone involved has the opportunity to not only discuss their experience, but to hear the experiences of the other staff involved. In this way, everyone can see more clearly what happened during the incident.

The CISRT team will also evaluate the result of these debriefings and decide if there is a need to return to offer continued support to staff. Every person attending a debriefing may choose to request a follow-up call from one of the team members at the debriefing. CISRT members strive to support staff as much as possible and to encourage staff to support one another through traumatic events.

## What We Don't Do:

One of the biggest misconceptions of the CISRT is that it's members are part of investigations. We do not discuss anything that is mentioned during our meetings with staff. We are there as emotional support only. All discussions within our groups are strictly confidential.

## Grief Support:

Initially, the CISRT team was established to provide defusings and debriefings. Over the years, it has become more and more apparent that there was a need to provide support to staff who suffered the loss of a co-worker. The team now has included grief support as another area of assistance to staff.

## Family Support:

Another area that the team is currently looking into is being available to the families of staff members during a major incident. The CISRT is working to assist family members with information, travel assistance, emotional support, etc.

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# Accreditation, Cont'd

The near perfect scores came even as a major incident occurred while the auditors were present at the institution. "Instead of a drill, they got to see staff at their best with the real thing," said Deputy Warden Curtis Boyle.

At the Accreditation close out meeting, Warden John Sieminski carefully expressed his gratitude to each segment of his staff for their commitment and unerring attention to detail. "I can not thank each of you enough for what you have done," said Warden Sieminski. The score was on par with that achieved in the facility's first accreditation in 2002, but since then the five new housing units have been added, and the facility is now the state's largest with more than 2000 offenders. Warden Sieminski has vowed that the challenge isn't yet complete. The facility will take advantage of the opportunity to correct a few minor details that once resolved should boost the score even higher.

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# From the Troops

*The following was sent by Lt. Jeffrey Suprespent of Osborn CI who is currently serving in Iraq.*

The day on a range outside our base, shooting our M-4 and 50cals and variety of different weapons it was a great day. This is our interpreter I am showing him how to fire the M-4.





# Good Neighbors, Cont'd

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(L-R)Vearneail Woods of MWCI, Gwen Smith Iloani and A.W. Smith of MWCI

**MacDougall-Walker CI** - Gwen Smith Iloani, President and CEO of Smith, Wiley & Company donated \$1,000.00 to Officer Vearneail Woods of MacDougall-Walker CI, who recently experienced a fire in his home. Officer Woods' brother, Damon, recieved burns over 30% of his body and is recovering at the University of Bridgeport Hospital Burn Center. The officers and staff of MacDougall raised \$280.00 to help with the transportation of the Woods family from Hartford to Bridgeport to visit Damon. The additional funds will help provide clothing for Damon's daughters Taiyana and Khalil and items which were lost in the fire. Gwen Smith Iloani, who is the older sister of A.W. Smith, said she is happy that Smith, Wiley & Company were able to help.

## Around the cell block

**Texas-** The state had to evacuate more than 5,000 inmates by bus in advance of Hurricane Rita hitting the Gulf Coast.

**Illinois-** Inmates at the Jacksonville Correctional Center spent four days on lock down after a Deputy Warden lost a set of keys including a master key to the facility.

## Correction

In a previous issue of PRIDE at Work, Principal Personnel Officer Sally Rowell, was reported to have marked 30 years of service with the Department. PPO Sally Rowell celebrated 35 "Years of Service" as of September 2005. The staff of the Public Information Office offer their apology for this error and congratulations.

## Calendar, Cont'd

**October 21** - Carl Robinson CI and the K-9 Unit will celebrate their 20th Anniversary at noon in CRCI's visiting room.

**October 23** - American Heart Association's 2005 Heart Walk. For information go to [www.heartwalk.kintera.org/hartford](http://www.heartwalk.kintera.org/hartford) or contact Warden Charles Lee at 860.240.1803.



**October 28-** MYI will celebrate the retirement of Verna Arndt, Eugene Aaron, Rich Brozowski, Steve Carbone, James Foley, Jeff Gould, Dale Grande, Kevin Gray, Ron Linares, James Miller, Dave Parent, Manuel Reyes, Geoffrey Saunders, and Brenda Taylor at Gene's Cornerhouse Restaurant 1219 South Main St., Plantsville, CT. Tickets are \$30.00 and include buffet dinner and beverage with dinner. Cash Bar Available. For tickets contact CO Landrette, CFSS Waite, CO Liburdi, Yvonne Esposito, CFSS Milette or the warden's office at 203-806-2502 or 203-806-2500.

**November 11** - Bridgeport CC is sponsoring a bus trip to New York City and Radio City Music Hall on 11/11/05, a state holiday, for the Radio City Christmas show. This is to benefit Conn. Special Olympics. A flyer with the particulars has been posted in Human Resources. Please contact Pam Neuendorf at 203-579-6985 for more information.